

AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A feeding arrangement for individual feeding of timber to a downwardly moving conveyor, comprising:

an incoming conveyor for the supply of timber pieces and projecting carriers on the downwardly moving conveyor,

wherein the carriers incline obliquely downwards in a direction out from the downwardly moving conveyor when in a position to receive and carry individual timber pieces; that a curved guide space defined by guide rails is disposed to overlap an upper region of the downwardly moving conveyor with a lower end portion; and that the angle of curvature of the guide space is so great that the upper side of a timber piece coming to the guide space will be turned downwards when the timber piece rests on a carrier.

2. (previously presented) The feeder arrangement as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the incoming conveyor has an end portion facing towards the guide space which is approximately horizontal; and that, the guide space has an angle of curvature downwards which is approximately 90° or greater.

3. (currently amended) ~~The feeder arrangement as claimed in Claim 1,~~ A feeding arrangement for individual feeding of timber to a downwardly moving conveyor, comprising:

an incoming conveyor for the supply of timber pieces and projecting carriers on the downwardly moving conveyor,

wherein the carriers incline obliquely downwards in a direction out from the downwardly moving conveyor; that a curved guide space defined by guide rails is disposed to overlap an

upper region of the downwardly moving conveyor with a lower end portion; and that the angle of curvature of the guide space is so great that the upper side of a timber piece coming to the guide space will be turned downwards when the timber piece rests on a carrier,

wherein a synchronisation conveyor which extends from the discharge end of the incoming conveyor and through the guide space, said synchronisation conveyor having arrest members against which rest the front edges of the timber pieces in the direction of movement.

4. (currently amended) The feeder arrangement as claimed in Claim 3, wherein drive means is disposed along at least a part of the path of the synchronisation conveyor, said drive means being operative to act on the timber pieces at a speed which is greater than the speed of the synchronisation conveyor.

5. (currently amended) ~~The feeder arrangement as claimed in Claim 1,~~ A feeding arrangement for individual feeding of timber to a downwardly moving conveyor, comprising:

an incoming conveyor for the supply of timber pieces and projecting carriers on the downwardly moving conveyor,

wherein the carriers incline obliquely downwards in a direction out from the downwardly moving conveyor; that a curved guide space defined by guide rails is disposed to overlap an upper region of the downwardly moving conveyor with a lower end portion; and that the angle of curvature of the guide space is so great that the upper side of a timber piece coming to the guide space will be turned downwards when the timber piece rests on a carrier,

wherein the carriers have a longitudinal direction which approximately forms a tangent with the curving path of the guide space when the carrier departs from the guide space.

6. (previously presented) The feeder arrangement as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said drive means includes a circulating belt on which rest the timber pieces.

7. (currently amended) ~~The feeder arrangement as claimed in Claim 2,~~ A feeding arrangement for individual feeding of timber to a downwardly moving conveyor, comprising:

an incoming conveyor for the supply of timber pieces and projecting carriers on the downwardly moving conveyor,

wherein the carriers incline obliquely downwards in a direction out from the downwardly moving conveyor; that a curved guide space defined by guide rails is disposed to overlap an upper region of the downwardly moving conveyor with a lower end portion; and that the angle of curvature of the guide space is so great that the upper side of a timber piece coming to the guide space will be turned downwards when the timber piece rests on a carrier,

wherein the incoming conveyor has an end portion facing towards the guide space which is approximately horizontal; and that, the guide space has an angle of curvature downwards which is approximately 90° or greater,

wherein a synchronisation conveyor which extends from the discharge end of the incoming conveyor and through the guide space, said synchronisation conveyor having arrest members against which rest the front edges of the timber pieces in the direction of movement.

8. (currently amended) ~~The feeder arrangement as claimed in Claim 2,~~ A feeding arrangement for individual feeding of timber to a downwardly moving conveyor, comprising:

an incoming conveyor for the supply of timber pieces and projecting carriers on the downwardly moving conveyor,

wherein the carriers incline obliquely downwards in a direction out from the downwardly moving conveyor; that a curved guide space defined by guide rails is disposed to overlap an upper region of the downwardly moving conveyor with a lower end portion; and that the angle of curvature of the guide space is so great that the upper side of a timber piece coming to the guide space will be turned downwards when the timber piece rests on a carrier,

wherein the incoming conveyor has an end portion facing towards the guide space which is approximately horizontal; and that, the guide space has an angle of curvature downwards which is approximately 90° or greater,

wherein the carriers have a longitudinal direction which approximately forms a tangent with the curving path of the guide space when the carrier departs from the guide space.

9. (previously presented) The feeder arrangement as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the carriers have a longitudinal direction which approximately forms a tangent with the curving path of the guide space when the carrier departs from the guide space.

10. (previously presented) The feeder arrangement as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the carriers have a longitudinal direction which approximately forms a tangent with the curving path of the guide space when the carrier departs from the guide space.

11. (currently amended) The feeder arrangement as claimed in Claim 5, ~~wherein said~~ further comprising a drive means that includes a circulating belt on which rest the timber pieces.

12. (currently amended) A feeding arrangement for the feeding of individual timber pieces onto a downwardly moving conveyor, comprising:

an incoming conveyor for the supply of timber pieces;

carriers on the downwardly moving conveyor, said carriers incline obliquely downwards in a direction out from the downwardly moving conveyor;

guide rails defining therebetween a downwardly curved guide space, said guide rails being stationary and located to overlap, with lower portions thereof, an upper part of the downwardly moving conveyor, and an angle of curvature of said guide space being so great that an upper side of a timber piece entering the guide space is facing downwardly when that timber piece has reached and is resting on a carrier.

13. (previously presented) The feeder arrangement as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the incoming conveyor has an end portion facing towards the guide space which is approximately horizontal; and that, the guide space has an angle of curvature downwards which is approximately 90° or greater.

14. (previously presented) The feeder arrangement as claimed in Claim 12, wherein a synchronisation conveyor which extends from the discharge end of the incoming conveyor and through the guide space, said synchronisation conveyor having arrest members ~~(14)~~ against which rest the front edges of the timber pieces in the direction of movement.

15. (currently amended) The feeder arrangement as claimed in Claim 14, wherein drive means is disposed along at least a part of the path of the synchronisation conveyor, said drive means being operative to act on the timber pieces at a speed which is greater than the speed of the synchronisation conveyor.

16. (previously presented) The feeder arrangement as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the carriers have a longitudinal direction which approximately forms a tangent with the curving path of the guide space when the carrier departs from the guide space.

17. (previously presented) The feeder arrangement as claimed in Claim 15, wherein said drive means includes a circulating belt on which rest the timber pieces.

18. (currently amended) A feeding arrangement for ~~the~~ feeding of individual timber pieces onto a downwardly moving conveyor, comprising:

an incoming conveyor for the supply of timber pieces;

carriers on the downwardly moving conveyor, said carriers incline obliquely downwards in a direction out from the downwardly moving conveyor;

an inner and one outer curved guide rail defining therebetween a downwardly curved guide space, said inner guide rail having an angle of curvature exceeding 90° whereby said guide space diverges in a downward direction at a lower end portion thereof, said carriers of the downwardly moving conveyor passing through this lower end portion of the guide space to receive and carry away timber pieces passing through the guide space.

19. (currently amended) A feeding arrangement for the feeding of timber pieces onto a downwardly moving conveyor, comprising:

an incoming conveyor for the supply of individual timber pieces;

carriers on the downwardly moving conveyor, said carriers following a substantially vertical path of travel;

drive means for receiving timber pieces from the incoming conveyor, said drive means having a linear speed of travel greater than that of the incoming conveyor;

a synchronisation conveyor having arrest means, said arrest means following a downwardly curved path of travel from the drive means to an upper end portion of the downwardly moving conveyor, said arrest means further moving in synchronism with the carriers of the downwardly moving conveyor, said arrest means also being configured for transferring timber pieces from the drive means and delivering them on to the carriers of the downwardly moving conveyor.

20. (currently amended) ~~Arrangement~~ The arrangement according to ~~claim~~ Claim 9 wherein one inner and one outer guide rail are provided along a downwardly curved portion of the synchronisation conveyor, said guide rails defining therebetween a guide space into which the arrest means extend.

21. (currently amended) ~~Arrangement~~ The arrangement according to Claim 19, wherein the inner guide rail has an angle of curvature greater than 90°, whereby the upper side of a timber piece entering the guide space is facing downwards when that timber piece has been delivered onto a carrier of the downwardly moving conveyor.